

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed on July 6, 2009, has been received and its contents carefully considered. A Request for Continued Examination under 37 CFR §1.114 is submitted herewith.

Claims 1-10 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 1 is amended. Claim 10 is added. Support for added claim 10 may be found in Fig. 5 of the disclosure of this application as originally filed. The Specification is amended. Support for the amendments to the Specification may be found in Figs. 5, 7A and 8 as originally filed. Claim 1 is independent. Reconsideration of the application in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-9 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The Specification is amended to overcome this rejection, and support for the amendment to the Specification may be found, as noted above, in Figs. 5, 7A and 8 as originally filed. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-9 are proper under §112. Withdrawal of the pending rejection under §112 is thus respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-5, 8 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0035310 to *Tsuboi et al.* (hereinafter "*Tsuboi*") in view of JP 2003-013989 to *Yutaka* (hereinafter "*Yutaka*"). However, none of the applied references can reasonably be considered to teach or to suggest the combination of features recited in the above-enumerated claims, as amended.

Claim 1 recites, among other features, that the power transmission faces of the engagement arms include power transmission faces each having a first interference fit and power transmission faces each having a second interference fit, the second interference fit being smaller than the first interference fit. These features are discussed and illustrated, by way of example, in Fig. 5, by elements 460 having a depth of d_1 , and in paragraphs [0009]-[0011]. Here, interference fits may allow an elastic engagement member to more easily accommodate a centering offset and an angular offset between the first and second engagement members. Further, even if the engagement arms of the elastic member are flattened during prolonged use, the power transmission faces having the first interference fit still have sufficient interferences to transfer power through the device. Power transmission can therefore be transferred through these power transmission faces having the first interference fit during use over an extended period.

The Office Action concedes that *Tsuboi* fails to teach a plurality of interference fits, and asserts that there will exist differences in parts, even in those intended to be similar, due to mechanical manufacturing variations. However, as is well known, it is well within the ability of those skilled in the art to manufacture parts to have specific tolerances, so that resulting parts have, for example, clearance fits, or interference fits, or relatively great or small clearance or interference fits. Applicants' claimed invention thus will not result simply due to imperfect manufacturing techniques, as alleged by the Examiner's Action.

Moreover, the Action also asserts that *Yutaka* teaches the features deficient in *Tsuboi*. It would not, however, have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at

the time of invention to have modified the device of *Tsuboi* with the device of *Yutaka* to arrive at the subject matter of the pending claims. *Yutaka* teaches prevention of eccentric displacement caused by a damper member 17 between a wheel gear 16 and hub members 18 and 19. A plurality of damper receiving portions 16e of the wheel gear 16 and a plurality of damper receiving portions 18a2 of the hub member 18 are formed with the same corresponding shape and are positioned rotationally symmetrically at even angles and even intervals, respectively. Here, the damper receiving portions 16e pull the damper member 17 radially inward, and the damper receiving portions 18a2 pull the damper radially outward. The combination of this structure with the structure of *Tsuboi* would result in equal interference fits between the damper receiving portions 16e and 18a2, in order to generate pull equally and eliminate the eccentric motion. It would not thus have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to have modified the device of *Tsuboi* with the resulting equal interference fits of *Yutaka* to arrive at the subject matter of the pending claims.

Therefore, the combination of *Tsuboi* and *Yutaka* fails to teach or to suggest that the power transmission faces of the engagement arms include power transmission faces each having a first interference fit and power transmission faces each having a second interference fit, with the second interference fit being smaller than the first interference fit, as recited in claim 1. In view of the above, no permissible combination of the applied references can reasonably be considered to teach or to suggest the combination of features recited in independent claim 1 or claims 2-5, 8 and 9 dependent therefrom.

The Office Action rejects claims 6 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Tsuboi*, in view of *Yutaka* and U.S. Patent No. 2,135,634 to *Byrom* (hereinafter "*Byrom*"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 6 recites, among other features, that at least one of the power transmission faces of the engagement arms includes a cam surface. Claim 7 recites, among other features, that at least one of the engagement projections of at least one of the first and second engagement members has a cam surface. However, *Byrom* teaches simply that arms 20 and projections 14 are fitted into each other, as shown in Figs. 1 and 2 of that reference, but fails to show a cam-type structure. Therefore, *Byrom* fails to teach or to suggest that at least one of the engagement projections of at least one of the first and second engagement members has a cam surface, as recited in claim 6, or that at least one of the engagement projections of at least one of the first and second engagement members has a cam surface, as recited claim 7.

Claim 10 recites that the power transmission faces each having the first interference fit and the power transmission faces each having the second interference fit are alternatingly arranged with each other. Such features are illustrated and discussed by way of example in Fig. 7A and paragraph [0036] of the disclosure of this application. Slight variations in the dimensions of interference fits due to manufacturing tolerances, as asserted by the Office Action to correspond to relatively great and relatively small interference fits previously recited in the pending claims, would not result in the alternating arrangement of interference fits recited in the pending claims, with the associated advantages discussed above. Thus, the applied references fail to teach or to suggest the combination of features recited in claim 10.

In view of the above, no permissible combination of the applied references can reasonably be considered to teach or to suggest the combination of features recited in dependent claims 6 and 7. Claims 2-5 and 8-10 are also allowable, at least for their dependence on an allowable independent claim 1 as discussed above, as well as for the separately patentable subject matter that each of these claims recites.

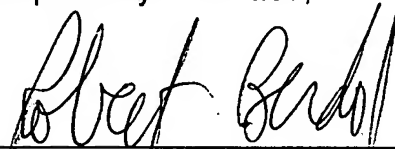
Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the pending rejections of the Office Action under 35 U.S.C. §103 are respectfully requested.

It is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Such action and the passing of this case to issue are requested.

Should the Examiner feel that a conference would help to expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is hereby invited to contact the undersigned counsel to arrange for such an interview.

An RCE fee is submitted herewith. However, should any additional fees be required, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 18-0002, and advise us accordingly.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date

RHB/ARK/pq

AMENDMENT

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